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SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1957

Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector -

W.E. BREEDS, M.A.P.H.I., C.S.I.B.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st September, 1958.

To The Chairman and Members,
Shaftesbury Rural District Council.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1957.

I regret that, owing to the poliomyelitis vaccination drive during the current year it has not been possible to present this report to you at an earlier date in accordance with my usual custom.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 and 1951.

The report shows that the health of the District has remained satisfactory during the year and that there has been no undue incidence of serious infectious disease. The vital statistics compare favourably with those of the Country as a whole, but it is disappointing to note an appreciable rise in the number of illegitimate births in the district to eleven. The figures for the past ten years have been -

1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
7	5	8	9	2	11	10	6	2	11

An illegitimate birth rate of 67 per 1,000 live births compared with 47 in the Country as a whole is an unsatisfactory figure.

I am indebted to your Public Health Inspector, Mr. Breeds, for his co-operation and help during the year and for his assistance in preparing this report, particularly in respect of the sanitary statistics for which he is responsible. I am also indebted to your Waterworks Manager, Mr. Burt, for his co-operation and assistance in compiling the sections of this report dealing with the water supplies of the district, and to my clerk, Mrs. P. Dyas, for her efficient services.

I would also like to acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk and the other members of your staff.

Finally, may I thank you, Madam and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

Boyd Brown

Medical Officer of Health.

SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

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A. Area - 42,000 acres.

Rateable value: 1st April 1958 £74,616

Production of a penny rate: 1957/58 = £287

1958/59 = £265 (estimate)

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 9,830

LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>		<u>Comparative Rates</u>	
				(a) Shaftesbury R.D.C.	(b) England & Wales.
Total	77	66) Rate per 1,000		
Legitimate	72	60) resident pop:		
Illegitimate	5	6) = 14.4	16.6	16.1

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	1	2	Rate per 1,000 live & stillbirths = 20.4	20.4	22.4
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DEATHS.

Total	49	44	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 9.1	7.8	11.5
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Deaths in infants under one year (Both legitimate)	2	Nil	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = 14.0	14.0	24.8
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	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1955.</u>	<u>1954.</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
" " Cancer of the Lungs	1	1	2	3
" " Other Cancer	9			
" " Coronary Disease(Angina)	13	15	16	18
" " Other Heart or Vascular disease	38			
" " Influenza	1	3	2	Nil
" " Pneumonia	1	3	5	3
" " Motor vehicle accidents	1	Nil	Nil	2
" " All other accidents	3	1	1	Nil
" " Suicide	1	2	2	Nil

B. Nature of the District.

The District is mainly rural in character with an urbanised area in Gillingham. The principal industries and trades of the district are of a mixed nature which includes brewing, glue and fertilizer mixing, brick making, timber works, glove manufacturing and the production of dried milk products. There are two large bacon factories in the district and also The National Stud.

C. Personal Health Services in the District.

It is satisfactory to note that the increasing demand on Health Visitors time made by the increasing attention which they have now to give to old people, has been met by the appointment of an additional Health Visitor in the North Dorset area with a corresponding reduction in the case load of each Health Visitor.

Hospital and Laboratory facilities are provided by the Salisbury and The Bournemouth and West Hants Hospital Management Committee.

D. Environmental Health Services.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Noel F. Pearson,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset Area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is one half day per week.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods (Full time) - W.E. Breeds,
M.A.P.H.I., C.S.I.B.

Additional Public Health Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods - L.F. Warren, M.A.P.H.I.

Meat Inspector (Part time) - Lt.Col. T. Sealy Green,
M.R.C.V.S.

Clerical Staff - One Clerk (full time)

WATER SUPPLY.

Quantity. Supplies throughout the year were adequate to meet the demand.

Quality. The bacteriological quality of the principal supplies remained satisfactory.

No samples were submitted for chemical examination during the year.

Although frequent and regular bacteriological examination of a water supply is the main method of checking its purity it is my recommendation (and it always has been) that at least one chemical examination should be carried out on each public source of supply each year. Only by this means can any change in the nature or origin of a supply be detected.

Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies. The following table gives particulars of the number of samples of water taken (before chlorination) for bacteriological examination, and the results obtained shown in accordance with Ministry of Health classification:-

<u>Source of Sample.</u>	<u>No. taken.</u>	<u>Results.</u>
Reservoir for Gillingham at Mere	14	All Satisfactory.
Boyne Hollow	31	28 Satisfactory. 2 Unsatisfactory. 1 Suspect.
Motcombe	16	12 Satisfactory. 3 Unsatisfactory. 1 Suspect.
Fontmell Magna Private Supply	6	5 Satisfactory. 1 Unsatisfactory.
Other Supplies	16	4 Satisfactory. 11 Unsatisfactory. 1 Suspect.

New Works carried out during the year. The year saw the completion of the protective drainage works around the Stubhampton bore hole, and the installation of the pumping plant and chlorination apparatus, enabling water being taken from this supply into the Council's mains.

Although the presence of fine greensand in the lowest levels of the boreholes was known and steps had been taken to prevent this being pumped up from the boreholes, when the deeper of the two boreholes was put into operation this fine sand was drawn up and got into the public supply. For the remainder of the year reliance had to be placed on drawing from the shorter of the two boreholes the water from which remained sand free. At the end of the year work was in progress in an attempt to seal off the sand bearing water in the affected borehole.

New Connections made during the year:-

Domestic Supplies	20
Agricultural Supplies	7
Other Supplies	1

Distribution. Apart from Bourton, where a considerable amount of properties have private supplies, and Fontmell Magna, where a number of houses are still supplied from the Fontmell Magna private supply, practically all other houses and farms in the district take their supplies from the Council's mains.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Gillingham Sewerage Scheme.

The confident hope which I anticipated twelve months ago that work on this long awaited and very necessary scheme would be commenced during 1957 was not fulfilled. The indications at the end of the year were that the work would, however, be commenced during 1958. Even though the financial assistance toward the cost of the scheme from the Ministry and County Council would be less than what previously was confidently anticipated.

The postponement of this very necessary scheme year after year during a time grants received were generous, until circumstances left the Council no alternative but to proceed at a time when grants are materially reduced has proved unfortunate.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House Refuse and Salvage. The service for the collection of house refuse and salvage has remained the same as in preceding years. A weekly collection is made in Gillingham and a monthly collection throughout the remainder of the district.

An additional tip was put into use during the year.

The quantity of salvage collected during the year amounted to 91 tons compared with 96 tons in the preceding year. The income received from the sale of the salvage amounted to £487.18s.9d. compared with £671.13s.0d. in the preceding year.

Cesspool Emptying. No cesspool emptying is undertaken by the Council.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

Until adequate parish sewerage schemes can be provided, a gross amount of pollution of streams and ditches in the district cannot be avoided. This type of pollution is present in many parishes in the district.

SHOPS ACTS.

No. of inspections carried out	Nil
No. of defects found	-
No. of notices served	-
No. of notices complied with	-

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

	<u>No. of Premises on register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	6	4	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	36	27	-
Total -	42	31	-

No. of cases in which defects were:-

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	3	2
Total -	3	2

No. of outworkers = 112

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Two complaints of minor smoke nuisance were received and satisfactorily dealt with.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There is no swimming bath in the district to which the public have access.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

There are no camping sites in the district. Licenses in connection with the occupation of six moveable dwellings were granted during the year.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

One case of flea infestation and two cases of fly infestation were dealt with, D.D.T. spray being the method of choice.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The duties of the Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee, whose activities cover the five districts in the North Dorset Area and the Beaminster Rural District. Sixty-three cases of infestation were referred to the Joint Committee by the Public Health Inspector.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

No premises in the district are registered or licensed under this Act.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

There is no shop in the district required to be licensed for the keeping and sale of pet animals under the above-mentioned Act.

SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS).

Inspection of the school canteens in the district were carried out during the year and were found to be satisfactory.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951 - Section 47

No action was required to be taken during the year under these Acts with regard to the removal of persons in need of care and attention and living under insanitary conditions.

HOUSING.

Total number of houses in the district	3,282
<u>Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -</u>	
Total No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year	397
No. of inspections made	530
No. of informal notices served	95
No. of informal notices complied with	79
No. of statutory notices served	12
No. of statutory notices complied with	6
No. of houses reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	46
Action taken by the local authority in respect of such houses	
Demolition or Closing Orders made	15
Undertakings accepted for -	
Closure	19
Reconditioning	-
Other action	1
No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year	Nil

Slum Clearance.

Steady progress has been maintained throughout the year in respect of slum clearance. A number of proposed clearance areas were represented, but the Council decided not to proceed with Clearance Order Procedure in these cases but to deal with each dwelling concerned as an individually unfit house subject to action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Forty-six houses have been so dealt with compared with eighteen during the preceding year.

So long as the building of new houses to rehouse those from 'unfit' dwellings is suspended from financial or other causes, progress in slum clearance must necessarily be curtailed.

Overcrowding.

No cases of statutory overcrowding were found or abated during the year.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

No houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Improvement Grants (Housing Act, 1949) and (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.)

Twenty-seven owners (compared with 49 in the preceding year) have taken advantage of the provision of grants under the Housing Act, 1949 for the improvement of property.

New Houses.

No new dwellings were provided by the Council during the year. Eighteen houses were built in the district by private enterprise.

Sixty-seven families were rehoused by the Council during the year.

At the end of the year there were 169 applicants on the Council's waiting list compared with 189 at the beginning of the year. There appeared to be a lessening in the demand for Council houses for farm workers.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Milk.

Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

No. of 'dealers' subject to registration
by the District Council under regulation 14
of the Milk (Special Designations)(Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 4

No. of 'dealers' subject to licensing under regulation 14
of the Milk (Special Designations)(Pasteurised and
Sterilized Milk) Regulations 1949 4

No. of 'dairies' in the district subject to
registration under regulation 8 of the Milk and
Dairies Regulations 1949 2

No. of 'distributors' subject to registration under
regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 3

Samples.

No. of samples of Milk taken and submitted for examination during the year:-

Tuberculin Tested	-	20
Pasteurised	-	128

Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 - Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

Other Food Premises.

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, restaurants, cafes and boarding houses	33
Canteens - School and workplace	8
Confectioners	8
Meat and Fish	9
Grocers	36
Mixed Stores	-
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions	4
Food factories	3
Stalls	1
Other	9

No. of above subject to registration under Section 16 of the
Food & Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of -

Ice-Cream	42
Sausages & prepared meats	10
Fish and Chips	1

No. of samples of ice-cream submitted for Methylene
Blue Test 56

No. of premises inspected during the year 64
No. of inspections carried out 82

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations 1947 - 1952.

There is only one ice-cream manufacturer in the District. The above Regulations are found to work satisfactorily in respect of making ice-cream on these premises.

The majority of ice-cream sold in the district is imported pre-packed.

Byelaws in respect of Handling and Wrapping Food etc.

Such byelaws are operative within the District.

Food Inspection.

Slaughterhouses. Three licensed slaughterhouses were in operation during the year, two of which were in connection with bacon factories, the remaining one being an abattoir dealing with calves, sheep and lambs from which only a small proportion of the carcasses are supplied to retail butchers for local consumption. The following table gives particulars of the total number of animals slaughtered.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	113	460	6,024	3,757	118,897
Number inspected	53	297	295	224	15,493
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	6	2	340
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	2	10	2,066
Percentage of the number killed affected with disease other than tuberculosis and Cysticerci	-	-	.13%	.31%	2.02%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	9	-	-	151
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	1	-	-	3,661
Percentage of the number killed affected with tuberculosis	-	2.17%	-	-	3.20
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Another year has passed and yet it is not possible to report that the meat inspection service in your District attains a satisfactory standard in so far as the majority of carcasses slaughtered are not examined by your Meat Inspector or by persons trained by and under his close supervision.

It is confidently anticipated that a comprehensive scheme for adequate meat inspection will be presented to you during the year 1958.

Butchers' Shops and Other Premises.

No. of inspections carried out during the year _____ 48

Quantity condemned - 4 cwt. Beef.
 21 lbs. - Geese.

Other Foodstuffs -

Total condemned - 5 cwt.

Disposal of Condemned Meat.

Most of the condemned carcasses go to processing plants. Livers are disposed of to local mink farms. A proportion is disposed of by burning.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	2,110
Total No. of informal notices served	127
Total No. of informal notices complied with	111
Total No. of statutory notices served	12
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	6
No. of prosecutions	Nil.

E. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

Other than Tuberculosis -

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>
Whooping Cough	15
Measles	21
Scarlet Fever	7
Erysipelas	5
Poliomyelitis (P)	1
Enteric	1

Tuberculosis -

<u>New Cases Notified</u>	
<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>
3	2

Food Poisoning.-

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

